Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Gary Stephenson began working for the state of South Dakota more than 34 years ago on October 1, 1970. He was hired by John Hatch in the Department of Health and joined the Division of Sanitary Engineering managed by legendary leaders Charlie Carl and Bob Summerside; and,

Whereas, Gary's employment with the state of South Dakota predated passage of most federal environmental laws such as the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, and the Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act of 1976; and,

Whereas, Gary has witnessed the evolution of environmental laws and regulations while also living through transitions of the state environmental programs from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Water & Natural Resources to the Department of Environment & Natural Resources; and,

Whereas, Gary transferred to the Rapid City office in 1974 from where he has worked on nearly every kind of environmental issue facing western South Dakota, including drinking water, water quality, wastewater, placer mining, air quality, spill response and solid waste issues; and,

Whereas, Gary attacked each of these problems with a passion for protecting human health and the environment while never forgetting that solutions must be practical to be feasible; and,

Whereas, Gary began consulting nearly every Friday night in 1977 at the Time Out Bar on East North Street with a lowly Assistant Professor at SDSM&T by the name of Steve Pirner; and,

Whereas, Gary was always ready to help Professor Pirner with class problems during these long consulting sessions just as Gary has always been ready to go the extra mile to help any of his co-workers deal with both routine environmental issues and emergency response actions; and,

Whereas, Gary's efforts have met the needs of hundreds, if not thousands, of our West River customers. His knowledge, expertise, and years of experience will be sorely missed:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2005, as

GARY STEPHENSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his co-workers, family, and friends in wishing him an enjoyable retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-sixth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State
by Deputy